

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 34, 38 through 43, 46 through 49, and 51 through 56 are pending, with Claims 34, 40, 46, and 47 being independent. Claims 34, 38 through 43, 46, 48, 49, and 51 through 55 were allowed. Claim 47 has been amended. Claim 56, dependent from Claim 47, has been added.

Claim 47 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,155,629 (Ito, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 47 recites, inter alia, that the first lens unit comprises four lens elements.

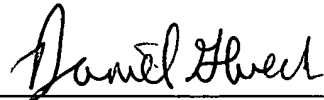
However, Applicant respectfully submits that Ito, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed feature as recited, inter alia, in Claim 47.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Daniel S. Glueck", positioned above a horizontal line.

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